

Germany Pins Peace Hopes On '14 Points'

Bernstorff Says Wilson's Programme Will Mean 'Fair and Just' Agreement Would Repay Belgium

'Self-Determination' Rule Is Invoked in Alsace and Former Dual Monarchy

BERLIN, Jan. 31.—Count von Bernstorff has given The Associated Press a statement written by him, after a consultation with Foreign Minister Brockdorff-Rantzau and other high officials of the German Foreign Office.

In view of the fact that Count von Bernstorff is one of the men introduced with the working out of the details for Germany's participation in the peace conference, and will, with the Foreign Minister, be a German delegate, the statement may be regarded as official.

It was written in English, as follows:

"The question, What would Germany consider a peace of right and justice? may be briefly answered in this way: 'That we would regard as such a settlement by which the terms of peace laid down in President Wilson's address to Congress January 8, 1918, and the principles of settlement in his subsequent addresses are carried out in true accordance with the high-minded and farseeing spirit in which they were conceived.'

Favors League of Nations

"Among the fourteen points the dominating note, in our opinion, is to be attributed to Point 14, providing for the constitution of a league of nations, which, as Mr. Wilson said on September 27, 'must be a part, and in a sense the most essential part, of the peace settlement itself.'

Accept Wilson's View

"With regard to the first, second and third points in Mr. Wilson's programme we are in perfect accord with him, in connection with Point 4 it may be mentioned that Germany is about to abolish obligatory military service, which thus far has been considered the cornerstone of her exposed position in Europe. As for Point 5, we welcome free, open-minded and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims," proposed by Mr. Wilson, and we are looking forward to a discussion of those claims in the peace conference in the spirit outlined by the American President.

"Regarding Point 6 we are completely disinterested concerning all questions relative to Russia except in so far as they concern our own frontier. Naturally, however, we do not desire a spread of Bolshevism over Germany and other countries.

Would Repay Damages

"As for Point 7, we are prepared to pay for all damage done to the Belgian civil population and their property as far as will be proven to have been perpetrated by German aggression." The same applies to Point 8, relative to damage done civilians and their property in Northern France.

"As for Alsace-Lorraine, we could not consider it 'righting a wrong' if through the peace settlement a new wrong should be permitted. That, however, would be the case if Germans were compelled to become French against their will. Likewise, it must be emphasized in connection with Point 9 that justice would forbid forcing Germans to become Italian subjects without their free consent.

"Point 10, treating on the question of Austria-Hungary, has been subsequently enlarged by the American government, in the sense that the Slav nationalities of the former Dual Monarchy must be granted not only autonomy, but absolute self-determination. Justice will demand that the same privilege be accorded to Austro-Germans. In the same manner we consider that settlement of all such questions under Points 11 and 12 merely the demand of justice that various peoples of the Balkan peninsula and the Ottoman Empire should be given their rights without distinction, and the present opportunity for self-determination.

"As regards Point 13, justice compels us to consent that present German territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations should form a part of new Poland, but justice likewise compels us not to tolerate that territories be replaced under foreign sovereignty which are inhabited by indisputably German populations. Moreover, we would consider it a wrong of the gravest character if, to satisfy Polish ambitions, East Prussia should be cut off from the rest of the empire.

Wants Blame Fixed

"Concerning territorial changes to be considered by the peace conference, we absolutely rely on Point No. 2 of Mr. Wilson's address at Mount Vernon, in which he emphasized the fact that settlement of all such questions must be made upon a basis of free acceptance of settlement by the peoples immediately concerned.

"Indeed, a peace of right and justice presupposes that, under guarantee of the league of nations, the principle of national self-determination will be made superior to all territorial questions.

"As to the question of guilt for the war, the German government has proposed that this question should be submitted to a judicial tribunal. This seems to be the only just solution. The German people, in the vast majority, do not feel guilty, although they do not deny that mistakes were made."

A Japanese View of Wilhelm's Responsibility

Professor Anezaki, of the Imperial University of Tokyo, discusses the punishment that should be inflicted upon former Kaiser Wilhelm II in an interview with the Tokyo "Nichi-nichi." He says: "The form of punishment that should be meted out to the Kaiser will be a difficult question. In Germany many people are clamoring that the Kaiser should be prosecuted and punished for the fraudulent acts by which he hoodwinked the nation and plunged it into calamitous war. And there is

as much reason for the Allies as the Germans demanding punishment of the Kaiser, since he is responsible for the killing of so many innocent people by submarine warfare and other equally barbarous acts. It is stated by an unimpeachable authority that some of the field orders issued by the Kaiser clearly mentioned that non-combatants might be killed! It is quite possible that the militarists induced the Kaiser to issue such barbarous orders.—East and West News.

Shop Committees in Shipyards Adjust Complaints of Men

Wage Board Describes Plan That Has Assisted in Reducing Friction With the Workers in Industry

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—How the shop committees for the adjusting of grievances in the shipbuilding industry function is explained in the awards of the Shipbuilding Wage Adjustment Board, published in the current issue of "The Monthly Labor Review" of the Department of Labor.

The employees of each craft calling in a shop or yard have the right to select three of their number to represent them as members of a shop committee. Each member of this committee is chosen for a term of six months by majority vote through secret ballot. Vacancies for an unexpired term are filled by ballot.

Members of an outgoing committee are eligible for reelection. The chairman of each shop committee is a member of a joint shop committee. The joint shop committee, by ballot, selects five of its members to act as an executive committee to represent it in conference with the superintendent or higher officials of the company. In contested cases the district examiner decides as to the validity of the election of a shop committee and supervises a new election when he deems such new election necessary.

When a grievance arises it is taken up by the craft or laborers' committee with the foreman or general foreman. Failing an adjustment, the craft or laborers' committee may then take it up with the superintendent, and may call in the assistance of a representative chosen by the committee to confer over the grievance with the superintendent or the higher officials of the company.

If the grievance concerns more than one craft it is handled through the joint shop committee, first, with the superintendent, and then, failing a settlement, with the higher officials of the company. In such conference with the superintendent or higher officials the joint shop committee has the right to call in the assistance of a representative chosen by the committee. In case such conference fails to result in a satisfactory adjustment, the grievance is submitted to the district examiner.

Any committee elected in accordance with the provisions of this section who is found to have been discharged without just or sufficient cause, after due investigation in the manner provided for the adjustment of grievances, shall be reinstated with full pay for all time lost.

Epidemic Kills 21,000

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 31.—"El Pueblo," a semi-official government organ, states that the epidemic of influenza in the State of Oaxaca alone has claimed 21,000 lives.

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Wilson Colony Plan Accepted in London As League Victory

British Dominions Thought To Have Gained Claims In Present Arrangement To Control Territories

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LONDON, Feb. 1.—London is as distant as New York as far as the negotiations of the peace conference are concerned, with this difference—there are people here who, when results are concerned, are no further away telephonically than if existing a couple of blocks away from the Quay d'Orsay.

Several times within the last forty-eight hours there has been a prospect of President Wilson returning without anything whatever to show for his visit to Paris, but this period seems definitely passed, and it is expected that he will be able to prove absolutely that his principle of the league of nations is actively existing.

Australia Is Interested

It is said here that Lloyd George is responsible for the compromise on the German colonies, but all signs point to a cheerful acquiescence so long as all the British labor expended toward the economic prosperity of these regions is not undone. There does not appear any wish to saddle Britain as far as distinct dominions go, with any further responsibilities, territorial or otherwise, so long as the imperial safeguards are unimpaired.

And there is a general tendency to allow the league to administer Turkish territory, with the proviso that as far as the best minds of this country are concerned the United States might undertake this responsibility for the league without seriously diverging from its settled national principles.

German Paper Says Ballin Killed Self

PARIS, Feb. 1.—That Albert Ballin, president of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company, committed suicide is expressly stated by the German newspaper "Warheit," a copy of which has been received here, the news being reproduced in other German newspapers without comment, but also without denial.

On November 8, when the revolution began at Hamburg, the "Warheit" says, the soldiers and workmen's delegates entered the offices of the Hamburg-American Line and ordered Ballin to leave immediately. The latter asked for fifteen minutes' delay. This was refused, but five minutes' time was granted him. The Ballin, the newspaper continues, in desperation drank a strong dose of poison, which had been conveniently placed in a drawer of his desk. He died in a hospital ten minutes later, after great suffering, the paper says.

Spear Men Back From War

The force of Spear & Co. has been augmented by the return of Sergeant Leon R. Spear and Murray Brenner, who have been in the army. Sergeant Spear returned with the 87th Coast Artillery last week, after a long service in France.

Can't Return Colonies

"That none of the conquered colonies go back to Germany we all agree. Common sense and common humanity alike forbid it, but at least it is not palpably

absurd to argue that they should for the most part remain in the hands of those who conquered them. They cannot be treated exactly as pawns in an American politician's game.

"We may be mistaken, but we cannot recollect any American expedition for the liberation of German territories in Africa, or the presence of any American ships of war in the operations which cleared New Guinea, Samoa and the Pacific Island of the German pest. Some of the conquered lands of Africa lie on the very borders of one of our great dominions. President Wilson would be sure to be the first to admit that New Guinea is considerably nearer Australia than the United States.

War Losses Recalled

"May we remind him that though the population of Australia is based at five millions and that of the United States at nearly ninety, the number of Australian dead is considerably greater than that of Americans. Australians can hardly be expected to forget that fact."

It is admitted generally, however, that President Wilson won through with his league of nations idea in the first great struggle, and the public, which fiercely sympathizes with the Australian aspirations, sufficiently supports the league, which now seems the cardinal article. It is believed that the British are of a mind to accept the solution as one doing the Dominions no substantial injustice, with the perhaps cynical reservation that by the time the league is an actuality there will be no disposition to interfere with the Dominion arrangements.

Public Accepts Results

Regarding the Arabian and Mesopotamian territories, which are chiefly subject to a mandatory system, it is too soon to pass judgment on the trend of public opinion, but all signs point to a cheerful acquiescence so long as all the British labor expended toward the economic prosperity of these regions is not undone. There does not appear any wish to saddle Britain as far as distinct dominions go, with any further responsibilities, territorial or otherwise, so long as the imperial safeguards are unimpaired.

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German Frontier Is Menaced by Poles And Reds, Is Claim

Berlin Newspaper Warns of Danger to Nation, Calls For Volunteers to Aid Present Dwindling Army

BERLIN, Jan. 30 (By The Associated Press).—Germany's eastern frontiers are most gravely threatened by the Bolsheviks and Poles, according to the "Tageblatt," which gives the following report of the situation:

"Strong Bolshevik armies stand before the borders of East Prussia, an eruption of Poles threatens West Prussia and that portion of West Posen which is still in German hands subject to a renewed Polish menace, which means that the Province of Brandenburg is also in danger.

Russian Soviet troops occupy a line from Libau to Kovno. The fortress of Kovno is not yet in their hands, but the Bolsheviks stand directly in front of it, and have at their disposal numerous divisions which are held together and led forward by iron discipline. The soldiers' councils, who longer play the role in the Bolshevik army that they did at the beginning of the revolution. Military authority on the other hand, is vested with the troops and their leaders.

"The German Eighth and Tenth armies are retreating before the Soviet troops. The 'Iron Division,' which now as a result of losses, has melted into the 'Iron Brigade,' numbering some hundreds of men, is also there. It would unquestionably be possible to offer resistance to the Bolsheviks beyond the East Prussian border if the Germans were well led by a single de-

termined will. Military authority, however, despite recent decrees of the War Minister, is actually in the hands of the soldiers' councils, who have not been able to decide on a united and purposeful action against the Russians, but, on the contrary, still believe they can stop the enemy's advance toward our borders by negotiations.

"Speedy help from dependable volunteer corps ready to oppose the Russians with arms, if required, is absolutely necessary. The same can be said of the situation in West Prussia. Numerous citizens' guards which have been organized there are not in position to check the threatening advance of the Poles. Some thousands of volunteers are urgently needed there.

"It must be emphasized that the engagement at Klusase, in which the Poles were beaten recently, was no accidental local conflict, but formed the beginning of a carefully planned advance of the Poles into West Prussia. The situation in West Posen is still critical. Bentschen and Meseritz, southwest and west of Posen, are threatened and, with them, Brandenburg's frontier is menaced."

Death, Fog and the Hymn

The origin of the well known hymn "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform," was a curious incident in the life of its author, William Cowper, the English poet. Cowper, a deeply religious man, was subject to attacks of the blackest melancholy. During one of these attacks he determined to end his life by throwing himself into the Thames River. He hired a cab to take him to the river, but a dense fog so confused the cabman that, after driving about for an hour, he admitted to his passenger that he was lost. Cowper, alighting from the cab in order to give the driver more careful directions for reaching the bridge, found that his wanderings had brought him back to his own door. Strongly affected by what seemed to him almost a divine interposition, Cowper dismissed the cab, hurried to his room and wrote his famous hymn.—People's Home Journal.

Gen. Pershing at Brest To Inspect U. S. Barracks

BREST, Jan. 31.—General John J. Pershing, commander of the American forces in France, arrived here to-day by special train to inspect barracks erected in the city and near by. He was received by an American regiment with music.

The French have been reports in the harbor of Brest owing to demobilization, Americans arriving in greater numbers than can be properly handled by transports.

American Officers Study Battlefields of Europe

PARIS, Feb. 1 (By The Associated Press).—To insure the writing of an accurate history of the war, a score of officers under orders to return to America have been detained and sent to Italy to make a study of the regions over

which the Italian and Austrian campaigns were fought. A large number of officers are now engaged in studying the devastated regions of France and Belgium for the same purpose.

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\$600,000 in Rental For Broadway Corner

Lunch Company Takes Small Building at Eightieth Street for Next 21 Years

The C. & L. Lunch Company has leased from Julia Schwarz for twenty-one years from May 1, 1919, the north-west corner of Broadway and Eightieth Street, a three-story building, 100x100, at an aggregate rental of \$600,000. Upon obtaining possession the lessees will make extensive alterations to cost \$50,000. Their eighth restaurant, it will have a seating capacity of 250. J. M. Schwarz was the broker in the transaction. Jacob Walz represented the C. & L. Lunch Company as attorneys.

Ames & Co. have leased to Daniel Pollack the store at 163 West Thirty-fourth Street; for Jesse T. Meeker to Carl Popper, the second floor at 44 East Thirty-fourth Street, and the store at 15 West Thirty-first Street. Bastine & Co. have leased the fifth floor at 42 West Fifteenth Street to Davis & Horowitz, and the second floor at 42 West Fifth Street to William Gruber.

The Charles F. Noyes Company has leased a large portion of the tenth floor of the Lorch Building, 85-87 Maiden Lane, to Fred Elgtved & Co.; also offices in the Broadway-Maiden Lane Building, 170 Broadway, to Milton S. Greenbaum, and a portion of the tenth floor of 160 Broadway to Oliver American Trading Company.

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